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**News
Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northrop Grumman-built Aegis destroyer

USS LASSEN called '...a marvel of American industrial ingenuity'

TAMPA, Florida, April 21, 2001 – The U.S. Navy's newest surface combatant was called "a truly awesome addition to America's defense capability...a marvel of American industrial ingenuity" today by the commander of the Navy's Pacific Fleet surface force.

Vice Admiral Edward J. Moore, USN, delivered the principal address for the commissioning of USS LASSEN (DDG 82), the newest in a series of advanced Aegis guided missile destroyers built for the U.S. Navy by Litton Ingalls Shipbuilding, a subsidiary of Northrop Grumman Corporation (NYSE: NOC), in Pascagoula, Mississippi.

"By putting this powerful and complex vessel to sea, the United States Navy and the Ingalls team have accomplished a feat that is envied by every other seafaring nation," Admiral Moore said, "for this ship is a remarkable testament to the shipbuilders art."

Admiral Moore then placed the new ship in commission for Pacific Fleet duty, cheered by more than 4,000 guests on hand at the Aquarium Pier in Tampa.

"Today is a great and historic day for our Navy," Admiral Moore said, "and for all Americans. Today, we have ample reason to be proud. Today, USS LASSEN is ready for sea...ready to protect our Nation's vital interests around the world."

Ship's Sponsors Mrs. Linda Lassen, of Pensacola, Florida, widow of the ship's namesake, and Mrs. Barbara Pilling, of Vienna, Virginia, wife of Admiral Donald L. Pilling, USN (Ret.), former Vice Chief of Naval Operations, ordered DDG 82's more than 300 officers and enlisted personnel

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to their posts, giving the traditional order to "Man our ship and bring her to life!" in a triumphant conclusion to the ship's stirring patriotic commissioning ceremony.

When USS LASSEN leaves Tampa next week, she will be homeported in San Diego, California, as an element of Destroyer Squadron 23. Commander Sean E. O'Connor, USN, a native of Rumson, New Jersey, and a 1983 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, is now in command of the 509.5-foot, 9,300-ton destroyer.

Rear Admiral William W. Cobb, Jr., USN, Program Executive Officer, Theater Surface Combatants, hailed DDG 82 as "another great example of the wonderful ships built in Mississippi at Ingalls." The Navy-industry team, Rear Admiral Cobb said, "must continue to build these ships to the highest standards of quality and technology...you don't have to worry about this ship – or her crew – if they must go into harm's way...they'll know what to do."

"USS LASSEN is the 33rd Aegis ship delivered by our company over the last two decades," said Jerry St. Pé, Chief Operating Officer, Northrop Grumman Litton Ship Systems. "Those 33 ships – 300,000 tons of naval vessels – were completed by our shipbuilders a combined 170 weeks ahead of schedule, more than \$600 million under budget, and to the highest possible quality standards. Today, as part of Northrop Grumman, we have a renewed commitment to continue our partnership...to make future ships of this class every bit as good as USS LASSEN, and with the same results in terms of schedule integrity, cost performance and quality."

USS LASSEN is the 32nd ship of 58 ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) Class destroyers currently authorized by Congress, and the 14th to be completed by Ingalls. Following DDG 82, Ingalls has contracts and options to produce 11 additional Aegis destroyers, with six of those ships in various stages of production.

These highly-capable, multimission ships can conduct a variety of operations, from peacetime presence and crisis management to sea control and power projection, in support of the National Military Strategy. The mission of LASSEN is to conduct sustained combat operations at sea, providing primary protection for the Navy's aircraft carriers and battle groups, as well as

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essential escort to Navy and Marine Corps amphibious forces, combat logistics ships and convoys. DDG 82 is capable of fighting air, surface, and subsurface battles simultaneously, and is equipped with the AN/SPY-1D phased array radar, the most powerful air search radar in Navy's inventory. The ship contains myriad offensive and defensive weapons designed to support maritime defense needs well into the 21st century.

In naming DDG 82, the United States Navy honors Commander Clyde Everett Lassen, USN, (1942-1994), a native of Fort Myers, Florida, who earned the Medal of Honor for his courageous rescue of two downed aviators while in command of a search and rescue helicopter in Vietnam.

On June 19, 1968, Lassen, then a 27-year old Lieutenant flying a UH-2 Seasprite, embarked on a mission to recover two downed naval aviators whose plane had been shot down deep in North Vietnamese territory. Upon reaching the hilly terrain where the aviators were hiding, LT Lassen made several attempts to recover the aviators, but dense tree cover, enemy weapons fire and intermittent illumination frustrated his efforts. Determined to complete his mission, LT Lassen turned on the landing lights of the helicopter, despite the danger of revealing his position to the enemy. After the pilots made their way to the helicopter and with his bullet-riddled helicopter dangerously low on fuel, LT Lassen evaded further antiaircraft fire before landing safely at sea onboard a guided missile destroyer – with only five minutes' flight time of fuel left in his helicopter's fuel lines.

The account of the rescue was logged as a successful, routine search and rescue mission. But at the home base for Helicopter Combat Squadron Seven, the rescue flight of June 19, 1968, will always be acclaimed as one of the most daring feats of flying to come out of the Vietnam Conflict.

LT Lassen became the first naval aviator and fifth Navy man to be awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery in Vietnam. His list of decorations include the Air Medal (First Strike/Flight Award); Presidential Unit Citation; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal;

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Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze stars and Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device.

Construction of DDG 82 began at Ingalls on September 8, 1997. The ship's keel was laid on August 24, 1998 and she was launched on October 16, 1999. DDG 82 sailed into the Gulf of Mexico for her first sea trials on November 14, 2000. The ship was delivered to the Navy by Ingalls on February 5, 2001.

Ingalls is part of Northrop Grumman Litton Ship Systems (LSS), headquartered in Pascagoula, Mississippi, which also includes the Litton Ship Systems Full Service Center, also located in Pascagoula, as well as Litton Avondale Industries, located in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Gulfport, Mississippi. LSS, which currently employs more than 17,000 shipbuilding professionals, primarily in Mississippi and Louisiana, is one of the nation's leading full service systems companies for the design, engineering, construction, and life cycle support of major surface ships for the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and international navies, and for commercial vessels of all types. LSS has a firm business backlog exceeding \$5.2 billion, in a variety of naval and commercial shipbuilding programs.

Northrop Grumman Corporation is a \$15 billion, global aerospace and defense company with its worldwide headquarters in Los Angeles. Northrop Grumman provides technologically advanced, innovative products, services and solutions in defense and commercial electronics, systems integration, information technology and non-nuclear shipbuilding and systems. With 80,000 employees and operations in 44 states and 25 countries, Northrop Grumman serves U.S. and international military, government and commercial customers.

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